

Torture Roulette: Why Some Kids Are More Obedient Than Others

Youth should be aware of the techniques used by their parent-slavers to coerce them into obeying. Parent-slavers use a particularly brutal technique called "torture roulette" to instill obedience in children by exploiting their fear of unpredictability. Because torture roulette is a psychological torture technique that works well at regulating children's conduct, many "modern" parents utilize it with their children. "Varying the type, frequency, severity, and time of punishment without warning the kid beforehand" is the definition of torture roulette. This gives the impression that penalties are random and unexplained to the youth, which makes them more afraid and uncertain and makes them cling desperately to obedience in order to avoid being abused. In this section, we use the term "randomized" as a shortcut for the full definition of torture roulette, knowing that we really mean the full definition.

Parent-slavers use torture roulette to control their kids' behavior by robbing them of knowledge about the consequences of disobedience. The parent-slaver creates an environment where the kid is continuously scared of what the parent might do in reaction to disobedience by randomly choosing the type of punishment, frequency of punishment, intensity of punishment, duration of punishment, and time at which the punishment is inflicted. The youth's ability to fight slavery is severely harmed by not knowing what kind of punishment they will receive, how severe it will be, how long it will last, when it will occur, or even if they will receive any punishment at all.

Without the ability to judge for themselves how viciously their parents will react to their disobedience and what exactly their parents will do, kids are left with the terrifying choice to either obey or face unexpected, unexplained, catastrophic harm. Torture roulette is so effective that today there are very many hyper-obedient kids who bend over backwards to please their parents. There are very few kids today that are rebellious to the degree that kids were fifty, seventy, and ninety years ago, and that is partly because of torture roulette. When up against these cruel methods, it is no wonder that many youth suck up to their parent-slavers, grovel before them, and debase themselves. Phrases such as "never make mom angry," "don't get dad on your case," and "please don't get mom involved" are ones that every kid knows.

Youth can beat these cruel tactics because torture roulette is just a more vicious type of obedience training. The tactics against obedience training outlined in DWYW Issue 8 can be used to completely defeat torture roulette. Kids who are faced with torture roulette could find it helpful to read *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith and *The 48 Laws of Power* by Robert Greene. Kids can also practice deliberate disobedience, which works well against the demotivating effects of torture roulette, using "The Method" from DWYW Issue 3.

Finally, you can avoid torture roulette by tricking your parents into thinking you are obeying their orders when you really aren't. You'll have achieved a small win and fooled them if they believe you're complying without double-checking. We'll talk about that tactic in the upcoming DWYW Issue 10.

Changing the Type of Punishment

Changing the type of punishment is one way that today's parent-slavers are far more vicious than those of the past. Examples of different common punishment types include grounding (imprisonment), beatings, chores (forced labor), public shaming, destroying social networks (refusing to let them hang out with friends), apologies, boarding school, framing (framing a kid for a crime and getting them sent to prison on false charges), physical torture, and wilderness camps (getting kidnapped). Switching between these punishments while keeping the kid in the dark will always be terrifying. Such an evil method of treating one's kid is typical of modern parents and their sick obsession with enforcing obedience. Youth liberationists must understand that as time goes on, oppression evolves and becomes more targeted and effective. Parent-slavers have found that changing the kind of punishment for disobedience without giving children any notice or explanation is a very powerful tool for forcing youth to obey.

This is one of the most terrifying aspects of torture roulette, because you never know what punishment will be applied next. Kids who don't know what's going to happen next will be kept in terror at what their parents will do; they know it's going to be terrible, but they won't have the knowledge to ease their fears.

The parent's refusal to tell the kid what is coming next or even explain why they are doing what they do is the lynchpin of this method. Fear has a much stronger effect on people when they are missing information.

Children grow up with the messages, "You can trust me; I am here for you," "I will always love you," and "I would never do anything to hurt you," but they are also kept in the dark about everything and are therefore unable to predict the behavior of their parent-slavers, which is one of the reasons torture roulette works so well. Combined with torture roulette, this creates contradictory information where what the parent repeatedly tells them (I love you and would never do anything to hurt you, trust me) clashes with the parents' real behavior and creates an environment of fear without cause.

Changing the Frequency of Punishment

Changing the frequency of punishment is a tactic used by parent-slavers to get their kids to obey out of gratitude. In this instance, parents decide against punishing their kids as often in an effort to win their affection or show gratitude for the break. Although this might appear to be a step forward, their relationship's legal

framework remains the same. Regardless of what the parent may say, the child is still considered a slave by law. Here, the child is either encouraged to disobey more, which is a good thing, or he or she is suspicious of the parent's lack of discipline, which is also a good thing. By changing up the frequency of punishment, the parent tricks the kid into thinking that they are "lenient" instead of mostly cruel.

It is cruel for a parent to harm their kids for refusing to follow their orders like good little slaves. It isn't the moral duty of kids to obey their parents; in fact, every kid would be better off never ever obeying. If parents want their children to do something, they should persuade them without using force or coercion. The slavery that kids suffer under is a perversion of the natural order of things. A parent who uses less "punishment" does not become any less cruel because, in reality, they are still abusing their child by committing crimes against them on a regular basis to get what they want. Reducing the overall number of crimes they commit against their kid does not cause the remaining crimes to disappear or cease. Kids' human rights are violated by all "punishments," and kids should never have to obey their parents. Kids have no moral duty to obey their parents; laws that mandate otherwise serve to enforce slavery.

Changing the Severity of Punishment

Changing the severity of punishment is another way in which parent-slavers force their kids to obey. The possibility of getting a broken leg instead of a slap for eating dinner early serves to reinforce the obedience training that parent-slavers are already forcing their kid to go through. Many kids are terrified enough of the prospect of an unpredictable and extremely severe punishment to obey without question.

It is common for parent-slavers today to pretend to "restrain their temper" (as if their monstrous and violent tendencies toward their kids are somehow their kid's fault) and give light "punishments" for repeated acts of disobedience before suddenly "snapping." In these cases, parents can go from slapping a disobedient kid to breaking their leg in three places, permanently crippling them for life. In these cases, a kid can call a parent a bad word, and the parent will go from having never hit them before to brutally murdering them. In these cases, the parent-slaver actively seeks a cruel and inventive way to cause permanent physical damage to their kid as "retribution" for having "tested their patience for so long."

Other code phrases that parent-slavers use that can indicate this sort of torture roulette include "being patient," "taking a deep breath," and "finding my inner peace. In general, youth should keep a lookout for any and all short phrases that imply that a parent-slaver is patient but full of frustration and trying not to take it out on their kid. Kids who hear these phrases from their parents (or relatives) might

want to get out immediately and should know that their parents are not to be trusted.

It is not possible to guarantee safety in these houses because this specific type of torture roulette is so unpredictable. Young people who live in homes where parent-slavers randomly change the severity of punishment need to get out of there as soon as possible because these parents are dangerous and frequently cause crippling or life-changing injuries.

Changing the Duration of Punishment

Changing the duration of punishment that was previously expected to be short is one way that today's parent slavers break their kids' wills. A short beating can produce resistance because a kid will know that when the violence is said and done, it will be over. When that beating goes longer than expected, everything the kid knows is thrown out the window. A day of chores that is the "usual" punishment suddenly turns into two years of chores, permanently destroying the kids' spirit. A kid expecting to have to turn over all their income from their job for a month will have their hope stolen when they're forced to turn over their income for a year. In the absence of torture roulette, kids can decide to take risks of disobedience proportional to the punishment, knowing that it will be worth it once the punishment is over. By randomly varying the duration of the punishment, parent-slavers remove a kid's will to disobey.

This tactic applies to every type of punishment under the sun. This tactic is used with grounding, forced labor, and torture (such as kneeling on rice or bottle caps), and their durations are often randomly varied by parent-slavers in order to break a kid's will to disobey.

Changing the Time of Punishment

One very evil way that parent-slavers use torture roulette to force kids to obey is by changing the time of punishment without warning or explanation. In this case, the kid is always punished for disobedience, but they are never told when. This means that a kid could go unpunished for a year for a previous act of disobedience, only to find themselves with a beating on the first day of the second year, with no explanation or warning. This is terrifying, cruel, and inhumane, and yet this strategy is the most common of all the aspects of torture roulette listed.

Parents will stop at nothing in their cruel quest to subjugate their human property, and so this cruel aspect of torture roulette is at the forefront of today's parenting.

The Struggle of Rich Kids

One overlooked struggle is that of rich kids. It would be more accurate to rephrase the term "rich kids" as "kids born to rich parents." There are no wealthy children because no wealthy parent-slaver would ever provide their child with the financial means to challenge them. Kids born to wealthy parents are less wealthy and less stable financially than adults making the minimum wage; their parents only give them little financial favors like dog treats. In this section, when we say "rich kids" we really mean "kids born to rich parents."

One of the special challenges that "rich kids" face is that their parents use them as slave labor to further their own personal brands. Rich parent-slavers frequently make their children perform "prestigious" tasks in order to enhance their own status. Kids are forced to do painting, music, chess, robotics, science, medicine, the piano, the violin, and so forth. The kid receives no immediate or long-term benefit from these activities, but the wealthy parent's reputation is greatly enhanced. Rich parent-slavers put their kids through an unending hell of orders in which their sole purpose is to obey. Rich kids live lives that are entirely devoted to obedience, from dawn to dusk. Rich parent-slavers dictate to their children what to wear, how to act, what their interests are, how to speak, who their friends are, if any, and how to think. They abuse their unique access to money and free time to control their children.

Because their entire lives have been built around the goal of appeasing their parent-slavers against their will, "rich kids" frequently view themselves as "failures." Rich kids are made to dance to a horrible tune like puppets on strings. By creating a fake standard of what makes for a good childhood, rich-parent slavers judge their kids to be smart or dumb, hardworking or lazy, kind or mean, and more. They invent a fake reality in which disobedience is viewed as wicked and obedience as virtue. Rich parent-slavers gain from this misleading metric as well, since it gives the impression to other parent-slavers that they are "giving their child opportunities" or "setting them up for success," when in fact they are just controlling their unhappy slave.

Visible child maltreatment also presents troubles for rich kids. Rich parent-slavers have no such restrictions, while impoverished parent-slavers can do anything to their children—but only in private. Their wealth and influence enable them to disobey several laws outright, even in public and in front of large crowds of witnesses. Due to this dynamic, wealthy parent-slavers are able to abuse their children in the most heinous ways when witnesses are present without ever facing consequences. Rape, torture, beatings, slavery, and human trafficking can all be done to kids with many witnesses around, and as long as a parent-slaver is rich enough to pay, there won't be charges or convictions. Would-be witnesses can be paid off or intimidated with lawsuits and threats of prosecution or financial pressure;

witnesses lying about what happened can be paid for and summoned to exonerate the rich parent-slaver; judges can be bribed; clerks can “forget” to enter paperwork into the system; court proceedings can be stalled, court records can be lost, court officials can falsify statements; lawyers both defending and prosecuting can be bought; police can falsify police statements as they write them down; and much more in the US. This is true even in better court systems that are structured to reduce real corruption (both reported and unreported), because even in the best countries, court officials are not accountable to youth in any way. In this way, rich-parent slavers weaponize their power and wealth to hurt their kids.

Rich kids are often blamed for their parents’ sins, but the crime of the father is not the crime of the son. All kids deserve to be freed from youth enslavement, even those who are born to rich parents. In fact, no matter how high their privilege, a youth never deserves to be a slave. Kids should never be punished for the crimes of their parents. Since the law explicitly states that children cannot leave their parents and become freedpeople, children who are ensnared in criminal activity by them should likewise not face punishment. For kids of rich parent-slavers, who frequently become witnesses to the crimes their parents commit, this is especially important.

Rich kids also face the evils of the troubled teen industry. Rich parents can literally pay for their kids to be kidnapped and dragged off to a concentration camp in the middle of nowhere. These concentration camps, which go by various names like “residential treatment centers,” “therapeutic boarding schools,” “juvenile boot camps,” “behavior modification programs,” and “wilderness programs,” abuse and torture young people in the name of mental health therapy. Rich kids are brainwashed, forced to take drugs, raped, beaten, made to perform labor, and have all kinds of human rights violations done to them in these hellholes.

Most people never question whether a rich kid actually has any real money or income at all; they just notice the dollar sign hidden behind the kid’s jacket. The 16-hour days of forced labor rich kids spend participating in activities chosen for them by their parent-slavers go largely ignored by the public. The majority of people never think about how wealthy parents can oppress their own kids with all of their wealth and influence. Rich kids are not rich; rather, they are impoverished and the victims of wealthy and powerful enslavers. These slave owners subjugate their kids without end, abusing their wealth and influence. Rich parent-slavers use their wealth and influence as weapons against their children in an endless number of ways.

Like all other youth, rich kids deserve to be free. Rich kids should be free; they don’t deserve to be slaves. They have the human right to choose how they spend their time, the right to avoid being abducted, and the right to be free from their parents using their wealth and influence to exploit them. All children, regardless of privilege, ought to be born free.

Abolish the Voting Age All at Once

One of the ideas being floated around the youth rights movement right now is the idea of slowly lowering the voting age. First to sixteen, then to fourteen, then “maybe further.” What this really means is a bunch of oppressors putting an end to youth liberationist organizing by satisfying the anger of older youth liberationists and spitting on the efforts of younger ones. Slowly lowering the voting age divides the youth vote and creates artificial divisions and rivalries, and by doing this, these malicious adults will change the definitions of adulthood and kill the youth liberationist movement in the cradle. For example, the voting age in the United States was previously 21 before it was lowered in 1971. The age of majority followed, and now American 18- to 21-year-olds consider themselves to be adults. Despite having spent the majority of their lives as youth and easily meeting the definition of youth, they now regard themselves as adults. Even though those over 18 are now freedpeople, those under 18 face much greater oppression than they did prior to 1971. In truth, slowly lowering the voting age changed the meanings of both youth and adulthood, leading to youth under the age of 18 facing far more oppression.

We are on the cusp of another big wave of slowly lowering the voting age, maybe for military reasons or some other sinister political agenda disguised in the rhetoric of youth liberation. We cannot let this happen. The key to youth liberation and universal voting rights for young people is the complete abolition of the voting age. The ability to vote is also a human right. It is what we are owed, and it has been ours from the moment of our birth. We demand our birthright of voting rights, not because we are greedy but because it is ours. Slowly lowering the voting age is a ploy to deny youth their human right to vote. Even the term “slowly” doesn’t mean anything; it’s just an excuse for more oppression. The last time the voting age was lowered was in 1971, and it’s been over fifty years since then. The voting age has not been lowered again. Any delays in lowering the voting age are human rights violations; we want our vote, and we want it now.

“Slowly lowering the voting age” is code for oppression by eliminating political support for youth liberation. Such laws move an imaginary line to turn youth into adults and then say that the remaining youth deserve greater oppression. Indeed, this is what has happened. Compared to today's youth, those born before 1971 were far more free—though they were still slaves. Slowly lowering the voting age is nothing more than a tool that parent-slavers use to justify the new controls over youth that they have created over the last 50 years. If the voting age is lowered to 16, the next round of oppressive regulations will cause youth under 16 to cry themselves to sleep while daydreaming of the world before the lowering. Youth over 16 will be set free, while those under 16 will see a significant worsening of their enslavement. It can always get worse, and if this slow lowering of the voting age happens a second time, it will get worse. This time, it will get unimaginably worse.

As youth liberationists, we must fight off this co-option before we become complicit in our oppression. The oppression of people under 16 is the same as the oppression of people ages 16–18. Youth at birth deserve freedom just as much as youth at age four; youth at age four deserve freedom just as much as youth at age ten; and youth at age ten deserve freedom just as much as youth at age seventeen. Youth liberation will only happen through the complete emancipation of youth from slavery and the granting of the right to vote from birth.

The only way to win is together, so we must achieve the abolition of the voting age all at once. We must abolish the voting age all at once and grant every youth the right to vote from birth. No co-option, no oppression, no promises about the future. We are entitled to the right to vote from birth; we are owed that right, and we will not take no for an answer.